

- 7) *Exhibit 1*, presenting "Gerhard Wenske, Dictionary of Chemistry - English/German, VCH, Weinheim, New York, Basel, Cambridge, page 13;
- 8) *Exhibit 2*, presenting U.S. Patent No. 4,659,657; and
- 9) *Exhibit 3*, presenting U.S. Patent No. 6,120,987.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the specification by the Substitute Specification provided herewith as *Appendix D*.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15, and 16 as follows:

P1
9/8/1

1. (Thrice Amended) A conjugate for distinguishing cancerous or inflamed tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent moiety and a carrier, wherein the fluorescent moiety and the carrier are joined to one another via an acidic ester, an acidic amide bond or a Schiff base, and wherein said carrier is a protein.

P2
9/8/1

4. (Twice amended) A conjugate for distinguishing cancerous or inflamed tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent moiety and a carrier, wherein the fluorescent moiety and the carrier are joined to one another via an acidic ester, an acidic amide bond or a Schiff base, wherein said carrier is a protein, and wherein the conjugate comprises a plurality of carriers.

Q2 conclude 5. (Twice Amended) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety comprises an acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group or an aldehyde group.

Q3 7. (Twice Amended) The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the excitation wavelength is 320 to 450 nm.

Q4 8. (Twice Amended) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety comprises a porphyrin, a chlorin, a bacteriochlorin, a chlorophyll, a phthalocyanine, a carboxy cinnamic acid, a carboxy cinnamic acid, a carboxyfluorescein, an acridic acid, a coumaric acid, or an indocyanine green.

9. (Twice Amended) A conjugate for distinguishing cancerous or inflamed tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent moiety and a carrier, wherein the fluorescent moiety and the carrier are joined to one another via an acidic ester, an acidic amide bond or a Schiff base, and wherein said carrier is a protein, and wherein the conjugate comprises a plurality of fluorescent moieties.

Q5 10. (Twice Amended) A method of producing the conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety is covalently bonded to the carrier thereby forming the connector.

Q4 13. (Amended) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the protein is a serum albumin.

15. (Amended) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety has an excitation wavelength of 630 nm or greater.

16. (Amended) A composition comprising the conjugate of claim 1 and an acceptable carrier or excipient.

Please add new Claim 18:

18. (New) The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent moiety has an excitation wavelength of 450 nm or less.